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- (71) Applicant: SIEMENS HEALTHCARE DIAGNOSTICS INC. [US/US]; 511 Benedict Ave., Tarrytown, New York 10591 (US).
- (72) Inventors: MILLER, Kerry L.; 20 Fox Run Drive, Elkton, Maryland 21921 (US). ABRAHAM, Bestin; 116 Glencoe Court, Newark, Delaware 19702 (US).
- (74) Agents: YUAN, Chien et al.; Siemens Corporation - Intellectual Property Dept., 3501 Quadrangle Blvd., Ste 230, Orlando, FL 32817 (US).
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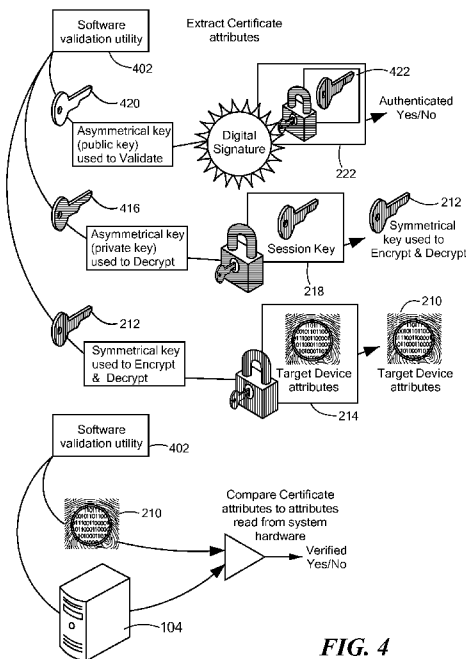


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: A certificate for a target device includes encrypted system attributes that are verified against attributes of the target device prior to software usage. A certificate server securely obtains system attributes from the target system and generates a certificate with encrypted components including some system attributes. The certificate is stored on the target device and software installation/execution is made dependent on validation of the certificate. An encrypted system fingerprint in the certificate is decrypted by the software at the target device and compared with locally obtained system attributes to verify authorization for software usage on the target device. The certificate represents an easy to use paradigm for anti-piracy protection of software.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - G06F 11/30 (2014.01) CPC - G06F 21/10 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC(8): G06F 11/30 (2014.01); CPC: G06F21/10 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched USPC: 713/193, 713/189, 726/26 (keyword limited; terms below); CPC: G06F21/10, G11B20/00086, G11B20/0021 (keyword limited; terms below) Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) PatBase, Google Patents, Google Scholar Keywords searched: software authorization, digital certificate, transmit certificate, processor identifier, software license, etc.		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/0149670 A1 (Cronce) 07 August 2003 (07.08.2003), entire document, especially abstract; Fig. 7, ref. 711, 712, 713 and 761; and para. [0023], [0026], [0028], [0030] - [0032], [0052], [0056], [0062] - [0065], [0078], [0087], [0094].	1 - 5, 7, 8, 11 - 13, 15, 19, 20, 22 - 27, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35-36
- Y		6, 9, 10, 14, 16 - 18, 21, 28, 30, 33
Y	US 2011/0026714 A1 (Thomas et al.) 03 February 2011 (03.02.2011), entire document, especially abstract and para. [0011].	6, 10, 14, 16 - 18, 28, 30
Y	US 2005/0182732 A1 (Miller et al.) 18 August 2005 (18.08.2005), entire document, especially abstract and para. [0033].	9, 21, 33
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 October 2014 (14.10.2014)		Date of mailing of the international search report <p align="center" style="font-size: 1.2em;">18 NOV 2014</p>
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201		Authorized officer: <p align="center">Lee W. Young</p> PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774